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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Naoko TSUJI, et al.

SERIAL NO.: New Continuation
Application

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)

FILED: Herewith

FOR: TREATING METHOD FOR
SUPPRESSING HAIR GROWTH

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

: EXAMINER: FLOOD, Michele C.

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4/a
A.g.
3/18/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In advance of prosecution please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

~~Please cancel Claims 2, 5 and 6 without prejudice.~~

Please amend the claims as follows:

a1 --1. (Amended) A method of inhibiting hair growth comprising administering to a surface of skin in need thereof an effective amount of a plant extract selected from the group consisting of rye malt, oat malt and a mixture thereof,

wherein said plant extract is an extract of a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, an alcohol and a mixture thereof.

a2 --3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising administering (B) an elastase inhibitor or neutral endopeptidase inhibitor.